

inconvenience would be worth it. I know my constituents who lost their son feel that way, and I would venture to guess that many other families would feel that way too.

Mr. President, I want to thank Senator SPECTER, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, for his good faith efforts to address this issue. His commitment to continue working with me was a major reason for my decision not to proceed my amendment on the Supplemental Appropriations bill. I look forward to working with the Senator from Pennsylvania and other concerned Senators in the months ahead.●

HONOR VICTIMS OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE BY ENACTING THE SAFE SCHOOL SECURITY ACT

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to state that today marks the first anniversary since the tragic school shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas. We all remember hearing about the gun shots fired by two young boys hiding in the woods—shots that led to the tragic death of four of their classmates and a Jonesboro teacher. March 24th will forever be ingrained in our memories as the day our children's safety at school was threatened in a way we could hardly imagine.

One of the bills I introduced recently was aimed at keeping our kids in school. But solving the truancy problem is only one of the issues we must work together to tackle. Not only do we need to keep our kids in school, we need to keep our kids in school safe! The Safe School Security Act I introduced last week is intended to do just that.

Children should not have to fear for their safety while attending our public schools. At a time when violent crime in the nation is decreasing, ten percent of our public schools reported at least one serious violent crime during the 1996-97 school year. Because of this level of violence, 29 percent of elementary, 34 percent of junior high and 20 percent of high school students fear that they will be a victim of crime while at school. The school yard fist fight is no longer a child's worst fear: 71 percent of children ages 7 to 10 say they worry about being shot or stabbed. In fact, 13.2% of high school seniors reported being threatened by a weapon between 1995 and 1996. We all know that a violent environment is not a good learning environment.

Educators and law enforcement know that technology is the key to preventing and reducing crime in our schools. Most of us understand the importance of protecting our assets, yet we have neglected to protect our biggest investment of all: our school children. The Safe School Security Act would establish the School Security Technology Center at Sandia National Laboratory and provide grant money for local school districts to access the

technology developed and tested by the lab. Because Sandia is one of our nation's premier labs when it comes to providing physical security for our nation's most important assets, it is fitting that Sandia would be chosen to provide security to our school districts throughout our nation.

Increased school security not only reduces violent crime, it reduces truancy and property crime. The latest technology was recently tested in a pilot project involving Sandia Labs and Belen High School in Belen, New Mexico and the results were astounding. After two years, Belen High School experienced a 75 percent reduction in school violence, a 30 percent reduction in truancy, an 80 percent reduction in vehicle break-ins and a 75 percent reduction in vandalism. More important, Belen realized a 100% reduction in the presence of unauthorized people on the school grounds. Also, Belen saw insurance claims due to theft or vandalism at the high school drop from \$50,000 to \$5,000 after the pilot project went into effect. Clearly, the cost of making our schools safer and more secure is a good investment for our nation.

The School Security Technology Center will partner with the Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center in Georgia to facilitate the transfer of available security technology to schools that could benefit the most from such technology. The School Security Technology Center will also provide security assessments for schools so they do not spend limited school resources on security tools that do not work. This bill will authorize \$10,000,000 for schools to access the technical assistance from Sandia and to purchase security tools that fit their needs.

This one year anniversary of the horrible tragedy in Jonesboro should make it clear to everyone that it is time to focus on making our kids feel safe in school and ultimately putting kids first.●

SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY'S REMARKS AT THE AMERICAN IRELAND FUND NATIONAL GALA

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, last week, on the eve of Saint Patrick's Day, the American Ireland Fund recognized Senator KENNEDY for his life-long commitment to the Irish people and to peace in Northern Ireland. Senator HATCH and myself had the honor of introducing Senator KENNEDY that night. Today, I rise to recognize Senator KENNEDY for his work on behalf of peace and justice here in the United States and around the world, particularly in Ireland.

Before Ireland was in fashion, Senator KENNEDY was its loyal friend. Throughout the adult lives of most of the members of this body, Senator KENNEDY, his sister United States Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith, and members of their family have worked tirelessly, day in and day

out, to better the lot of the least fortunate of their fellow men and women. Senator KENNEDY's efforts regularly reach across the borders of nation, race and religion.

It was only natural, then, that the conflict and injustice in Northern Ireland would make a claim on Senator KENNEDY's conscience. His unceasing interest in achieving peace in Northern Ireland was, and is, the one constant over the many ups and downs on the still bumpy road to resolving that conflict. He labors both as a distinguished representative of the United States, and as a loyal son of Ireland.

Reflecting on the way Senator KENNEDY has led so many of his colleagues down the tortured path that must inevitably lead to peace, I am reminded of the figure of the great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, standing amidst the portraits of his contemporaries in the Dublin municipal gallery of art, and urging history to judge him not on this or that isolated deed but to:

Think where man's glory most begins and ends;

And say my glory was I had such friends.

Mr. President, I, and many others, are most grateful to be able to call Senator KENNEDY both a colleague and a friend.

In recognition of the honor he received last week from the American Ireland Fund, Mr. President, I ask that the remarks he gave that evening be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

Thank you, Chris Dodd and Orrin Hatch, for those kind words. Bertie Ahern, Kingsley Aikens, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Father Gerry Creedon, friends, family—and fellow immigrants!

I just wish my parents could have been here. Mother would have loved everything you said—and Dad wouldn't have believed a word of it!

There's an old Irish saying that half the lies your opponents tell about you are not true.

But when your friends tell lies like that—it's beautiful.

It is an especially great honor to accept this award in the presence of so many of those who were essential to the success of the Good Friday Agreement.

The shamrock has three leaves, and I'm convinced that the peace agreement would never have been possible without the strong support at all the critical moments of the three greatest friends of Ireland in America—President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and our truly indispensable peacemaker, Senator George Mitchell.

I welcome Bertie Ahern back to Washington. He deserves great credit for his own leadership during the peace negotiations and in the succeeding months.

I also pay tribute to the leaders of the Northern Ireland political parties who are here—John Hume and Seamus Mallon, Gerry Adams, David Trimble, Lord Alderdice, and Monica McWilliams. And I especially congratulate John Hume and David Trimble for the well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize.

I also welcome Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam. And I salute Prime Minister Tony Blair, and many other Irish and British officials for their courage and determination not only in reaching the peace agreement, but in moving it forward, inch by inch, day by day.

I'm reminded of the lines of Robert Frost that President Kennedy loved, "I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep."

I am very grateful for this honor and my heart is very full this evening. In truth, I owe a great deal to two others in our family—my sister Jean, the Ambassador who won the hearts of the Irish people all over again for our family. She made her own indispensable contributions to the peace process, and I know how much she looks forward to working with all of you on the Irish Festival she's planning at the Kennedy Center a year from now.

And, of course, my brother Jack. In fact, it's because of President Kennedy that all of us are here this evening. During his visit to Ireland in 1963, he joined with President de Valera in creating the American Irish Foundation, to encourage closer ties between Irish Americans and Ireland.

A quarter century later, the merger with Tony O'Reilly and Dan Rooney's Ireland Fund created the world's largest private organization supporting constructive change in all of Ireland, North and South. So I say to all of you, well done—Erin Go Bragh!

Jack would have enjoyed this evening. He was always ready to share his love of Ireland and all things Irish, especially with those, like so many of us, who have the map of Ireland on our faces. And he would have admired your skill in turning our ties of heritage and history into practical avenues of peace and prosperity for both our peoples.

The bonds between America and Ireland have flourished from the beginning. There might never have been a United States of America without the timely support from Ireland two centuries ago. As President Kennedy told the Doil on his visit to Ireland in 1963, Irish volunteers played so dominant a role in our Revolutionary Army that Lord Mountjoy lamented in the British Parliament, "We have lost America through the Irish."

It is often forgotten that more than half of the 44 million Americans of Irish descent are Protestant. The impact on America of Scotch-Irish settlers from what is today Northern Ireland was profound. They made and continue to make immense contributions to our country. Andrew Jackson was of Ulster Presbyterian stock, and proud of it. Eleven other Presidents of the United States were of Scotch-Irish heritage, including President Clinton.

Now, in our own day and generation, by facilitating the peace process, Irish Americans have a priceless opportunity to give something back to Ireland in return for all that Ireland has given us.

To the Unionists in Northern Ireland, we say that we are your brothers and sisters, not your enemies. The vast majority of Irish Catholics in America bear you no ill-will. Our hope is that as your ancestors did for America, you will help to lead the way to peace for Northern Ireland.

Many able leaders in the past devised what they thought were lasting solutions for Ireland. We know the high price that Ireland—and Britain, too—have paid because of those failed solutions and the endless seeds of repression, famine, partition and violence they sowed.

It is the clear lesson of that tragic history that no settlement will last unless it is based on equality and mutual respect. These are the twin pillars of peace. The Nationalist community will never accept a role of subservience to Unionism. And the Unionist community will never accept a role of subservience to Nationalism.

We know how far we have already come towards these goals because of the Good Friday Agreement. People on both sides in Northern Ireland understand that progress best of all,

because they see the true meaning of peace in their lives and their communities. The ascent to a peaceful future is nearly won, and they know how much is at risk. They are determined not to slide backward into the violent past—and they reject political leadership that would take them back.

We talk of a thirty-year conflict. But its roots go back not 30 years, but 300 years, not one generation but 10 generations, before the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth Rock.

The Good Friday Agreement is the best new beginning of all those 300 years, and the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland know it. It was endorsed by decisive votes in both parts of Ireland as a clear mandate to their leaders, and history will not deal kindly with any leader who fails this test, or any others who return to the bomb and the bullet.

The task now facing the Irish and British Governments and political leaders in Northern Ireland is to build greater momentum for full implementation of the Agreement. Clearly, there has been welcome recent progress. Last month, the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the designation of the Northern Ireland Departments and the group of cross-border bodies. Last week, Britain and Ireland signed historic treaties for closer ties.

Further progress in these areas is dependent on full implementation of all aspects of the agreement. We commend the work of General de Chastelain's independent commission on decommissioning, and we look forward to the important meetings taking place this week in Washington and in the weeks ahead.

Inevitably, there will be new difficulties beyond this current one. But implementation of the Agreement offers the best way forward and the best yardstick to judge the policies and actions of all involved. The goal of peace is best served by prompt action on the Agreement. Those who take risks for peace can be assured of timely support by President Clinton, Congress, and the American people.

Not all the guns have remained silent. The carnage inflicted on the town and people of Omagh last August was a grim reminder that, in spite of all that has been achieved, there are still some who subscribe to violence. As recently as yesterday, the cowardly murder of Rosemary Nelson reminds us anew of the urgency of our task. The horror of these atrocities unites all the people of Ireland and Great Britain, and friends of Ireland everywhere, in a determination that such tactics of terrorism will never again be tolerated or condoned.

Sectarian attacks, punishment beatings, and other acts of violence must also stop. They serve only to inflame division, recrimination and pressures to respond in kind. Resort to violence is unacceptable. It is time to say enough is enough is enough is enough. It is time to replace hate with hope.

We see the signs of progress in many ways. There is growing confidence that a new police organization will soon be born in Northern Ireland, capable of attracting and deserving the support of all parts of the community. The Patten Commission has a mandate to produce these new arrangements for fair law enforcement, accountable to and fully representative of the society. Its report is due this summer. So progress on this critical issue is being made.

Prisoners have been released. The British have reduced their troop levels to the lowest point in twenty years. Surely, only those for whom too long a sacrifice has made a stone of the heart can fail to see that the future lies with peace.

We are heartened by the establishment of the Human Rights Commissions and we look forward to close cross-border co-operation on

these vital issues. We also count on early progress on the review of the criminal laws, and the dismantling of emergency legislation.

As preparations for the 1999 marching season begin, the situation at Drumcree remains disturbing. We call on all involved to respect and uphold the decisions of the Parades Commission, and to recognize that progress can only be made on the basis of negotiation and agreement.

The Ireland of our dreams is no longer a poor country. The dark side of emigration from Ireland now belongs to history. There is still poverty in Ireland, as there is in America. But we are witnessing one of the great miracles of economics, as the romantic Ireland of the past transforms itself into the high-tech Ireland of the future. Yeats would have appreciated it. In Easter 1916, a terrible beauty was born. At Easter 1999, an entrepreneurial beauty is being born before our very eyes.

But the modern transformation of Ireland also means that we can no longer rely on the naturally renewing ties between Ireland and America created by successive waves of immigrants. We must work together all the harder, therefore, on both sides of the Atlantic to keep our ties strong and vital. The growth of student educational exchanges between our youth can have a primary role—through college Junior Years Abroad, in summer schools, in the Mitchell and Fulbright Scholarships, and in the expansion of Irish Studies in American universities and American Studies in Ireland.

Important though economic performance is, the challenges of the twenty-first century will come increasingly in the realm of the mind, the spirit, and the imagination, where Ireland's strengths are especially great. In an increasingly global world, the contributions of peoples and nations will be measured by how well they enrich our common humanity. Ireland has enormous potential to be one of the brightest stars in this new worldwide firmament, and this challenge is an area in which the American Ireland Fund is playing a vigorous and impressive role.

Starting before World War II, it was the custom of Eamon de Valera to speak to his Irish kinfolk in other lands, especially in the United States, and to tell them year by year on St. Patrick's Day of the progress being made to build the Ireland of our dreams—an Ireland, he said, that "is destined to play, by its example and its inspiration, a great part as a nation among the nations." His dream has long been our dream too, and how beautiful it is to see it coming true, as we dedicate ourselves anew to one of the truly great friendships in human history, the friendship of America and all of Ireland.

In closing, let me say a final word to our friends from Northern Ireland who are here. It is natural that we focus on the problems of the moment. But we do not overlook all that is good about your land—the ability of the people, their remarkable work ethic, their culture, and the vast potential of both communities that will be unleashed by a peaceful future.

We know the achievements of your leadership, which have brought you to this threshold of that future. President Kennedy would call you profiles in courage twice over—for your political courage in facing this extraordinary challenge, and for your very real personal courage in facing physical danger every day.

You've been asked to do a great deal already, and you've done it well. Now, you're asked to do even more, because we know you will not fail. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Thank you very much.●